

Cairnlea Parish Church

'COMMITTED to CHRIST – CARING for OUR COMMUNITY'

APRIL 2025

Airdrie Cairnlea Parish Church of Scotland is a registered charity, ref no: SC014555

www.cairnleaparishchurch.co.uk





FROM THE MINISTER

Dear friends,

I was passed this week a little article from a newspaper which had a very striking quotation: "What sort of freak then is humanity? How novel, how monstrous, how chaotic, how paradoxical, how prodigious? Judge of all things, feeble earthworm; repository of truth, sink of doubt and error; glory, and refuse of the universe." Pascal, who wrote this almost four hundred years ago, with his strong belief in God (while not claiming at all to understand everything), he saw day after day confirmation that on the one hand human beings are marvellously created, and on the other hand they are miserably fallen and in need of redemption.

Four hundred years ago, and now; and in Jesus' time... You and I may have the joy of knowing even a little some very wonderful human beings. But you and I also have the agony of not beginning to understand what brought a human being to do something that has horrified or hurt us – and to know that we ourselves have not been exempt from descending into something pretty dreadful. "Who will deliver me from this body of death?" (Romans 7:24)

I find myself this year thinking whether we might better share why Easter is so extraordinarily wonderful. For without it, all we have is a pattern of life having its ups and downs, sometimes good, sometimes not so, and then on occasion, and sadly repeatedly, people and our world being dragged seriously down, and even being dragged down deeper. Jesus entered into this. He entered into knowing the joys of friendship and the satisfaction of being able to make a difference to others and yet at the same time he was entering into a world where some people were so ready to judge him and to be negative and to be making life hard for others around them. And Jesus was himself taken into the pits, where lies and violence and denials of responsibility were the order of the day. He suffered and he died. And there was a very black full stop there.

But up from the grave he arose. He was not raised from death so that life would continue on as ever before – with just ups and downs and continuing tragedy. He was raised that we might live on a new plane; in a new way; with a new sort of hope and peace and trust.

You and I must not undersell that! Neither to ourselves nor to anyone else.
Celebrate Easter and being Easter people!

Yours,

Peter

CHURCHES TOGETHER

In the big picture of what God is doing, amazing and powerful changes are happening in the churches in Scotland. We are "to set our minds on the things of the Spirit" (Romans 8:6)

One aspect of this is to make a very big thing of celebrating Easter. You are invited to be with fellow believers each day of the week leading up to April 20th:

On Monday 14th in Cairnlea at 7 pm

On Tuesday 15th in Clarkston at 7 pm

On Wednesday 16th in Calderbank at 7 pm

On Thursday 17th in Chapelhall at 7 pm

On Friday 18th in Cairnlea at 7 pm

On Saturday 19th (the Sabbath), to be in waiting

On Sunday 20th (not quite at dawn) at 8 am, to be outside Cairnlea church gates

And then at 11 am the same day, to celebrate!

These special evening gatherings will not be long, not even an hour, and we will simply gather for worship together. We will share the Lord's Supper on the Thursday. And then on the Sunday we shall also feast – with a breakfast after the outdoors early service, with our refreshments after the 11 am service. Do come!

*When we are all despairing,
when the world is full of grief;
when we see no way ahead,
Roll back the stone.*

*Although we fear change,
although we're not ready,
although we would rather weep:
Roll back the stone.*

*Because we're coming with the women,
that we might find hope where hope was in vain;
because you call us to turn away from the grave so as to take your way,
Roll back the stone.*

Janet Morley, Christian Aid



Stay connected with Growing Young Cairnlea! Follow us on our new Facebook and Instagram to keep up to date with events, news, and ways to get involved. It's a great way to see what's happening in GYC youth ministry and support the outreach and evangelism to the young people of Airdrie. Just search for Growing Young Cairnlea and hit follow!

A huge thank you to everyone who has already volunteered to help with the After-School Drop-In Café—your support makes a real difference! However, we're still looking for more volunteers to help create a welcoming space for young people. If you'd like to get involved, please contact Jacob for more details. youth.GYC@hotmail.com

Cairnlea 2020

Hope everyone is enjoying the driest, sunniest March in years still cold though, watch those delicate flower seedlings and new bulbs. Hope everyone is praying for a positive outcome of our funding bid with the Scottish Government results of which are due very soon now.

1. Electricity Supply.

The Electricity meters saga continues without resolution. We have recently changed energy suppliers to E-ON, we shall have discussions with them to find out if they have a solution.

NO CHANGE

2. Cash Flow.

Bank Balance as at 24.03.2025 is £ 97,439.93

No outstanding Invoices.

3. Fund Raising.

Following discussions with Historic Environment Scotland (HES) we are applying to the small grants scheme for the roofing project. This process is expected to take up to three months until HES can give us a decision.

4. 2020 Phase 4 Future Plans.

NLC have advised that our project for funding via the National Regeneration Capital Grant Fund (RCGF) has now progressed to the SG Evaluation stage, decision is expected before the end of April.

We received a visit from Brian Waller, CEO of The General Trustees, together with the Rev Archie Kerr and Ms M McLeod from Presbytery. We provided them with an update relating to the Phase 4 progress and costings, both parties expressed their enthusiasm for the project and its success advising that should there be any shortfall in the funding we should apply to the General Trustees for assistance.

It has been suggested that we examine the possibility of including in the new Phase the installation of Solar Panels and Electricity Battery storage to further reduce costs.

Please ask any member of the group should you have a question or idea relating to Phase 4.

5. Roof Project.

All the necessary approvals are in place and the work is being scheduled to align with the receipt of funding grants. **NO CHANGE**

6. Marketing.

Helpfully we are receiving many bookings for the use of our premises with an increasing number coming from NLC and other local charity groups.

Please tell everyone you meet or in any of the groups you may visit, that there is a growing range of activities for all ages groups, with caring events going on every week within our buildings. Encourage people to come for fellowship, friendship and to share their faith with others who may come along.

7. Alarms – Security & Fire

Alarm Fob roll out in progress.

8. Tower Storm Damage

We are in discussion with the COS Insurance company for recovery of our costs, and we expect a full reimbursement of the funds already spent.

The 2020 group are enthusiastically continuing with upgrades in and around the buildings and grounds, please do let us know if you have any concerns or improvements you would like to see.

May we thank you for your sacrificial and generous giving to the project, please continue to pray for our group and its work. Thanks be to God.

**“ For the Lord is good....His faithfulness continues
through all generations .”**

Psalm 100 : 5 NIV

Malcolm

24 March 2025

From Finance Committee

As I write this article I cannot believe that Easter is only a few weeks away. Someone once said to me the older you get the faster time flies by. How true this is!

The Finance Group met on 3rd February as planned and got through a lot of business. Arrangements were made for our annual audit and production of the Final Accounts, taking note of all the necessary Church of Scotland and Charities regulations that we are required to meet. We also discussed some other items such as property - Church and Manse, insurance claims regarding our Tower and recent storm damage to the front wall, and also our contracts with Utility Companies (Gas, Electricity and Water).

Since the meeting, members of the Group conducted, on behalf of the Kirk Session, the usual Annual Audit of our Organisations accounts. Glad to report that all were found to be in good order. Can I take this opportunity to thank the Leaders and Treasurers for their help in getting this task completed. My thanks also to Drew Reekie and Jim Lewis who audited these accounts.

We have, in the last few weeks, received the Income and Expenditure figures for January from our Treasurer. These will be discussed at our next meeting. To get an idea of how our Church finances are shaping up for 2025 we really to get a full quarter behind us.

Our auditors, Messrs Benson Woods, have produced the first draft of our Annual Accounts. There is the usual list of points they wish clarified, though in fairness to them, a lot less than last year. Hopefully we will be able to get the necessary people together (week commencing 23/3/25) to

provide answers to the queries they have raised. Once that is completed a comprehensive draft of the accounts will be produced for discussion (and hopefully approval) by the Finance Group. A meeting of the Church Trustees will then follow to receive a presentation and hopefully agree to "sign off" on them.

Few other points to mention. The use of our premises gives the Church a very valuable source of income. The charge for our "hall lets" has not been reviewed for a couple of years. We have got to remember that our energy costs have increased during that time with a further change in the price cap due from 1st April. Discussions have taken place with Angela Wagstaff (Property Convenor) regarding a possible increase. A figure of around 10% is proposed, though it is fully recognised that some of the groups etc using our halls might not be able to afford this. Angela will have full discretion to discuss the change with them and if she feels it is appropriate, agree an amendment with them. Any changes will be effective from 1st April.

Can I wish everyone, on behalf of the Group, a very Happy Easter. We look forward to the various Holy Week and Easter Day Services.

As usual anyone requiring assistance with WFO envelopes, Standing orders etc. please do not hesitate to contact myself, our Treasurer, Lynn Turnbull (WFO) or Margaret McCombe (Gift Aid)
We will always try our best to help you.

Kind regards,

George Martin On behalf of the Finance Committee

Myself:- 01236 767206 email georgemarelle@btopenworld.com

Treasurer:- Gordon Calvert – email Gordon Calvert @cybg.com

Free Will Offering:- Lynn Turnbull - 07960 344375

Gift Aid:- Margaret McCombe - 01236 763977



Theresa and Alex would like to thank everyone for the many cards and flowers on the occasion of their 60th Wedding Anniversary.

These were all very much appreciated.

For your Diaries

Flower Calendar	
April 2025	
6	Marjory MacDonald
13	Gillian Hood
20	S J Elliott
27	Robert Lauriston
Duty Teams	
Dates	Team Leader
6 & 13 April	Gordon Barrie
20 & 27 April	Graham Henry

N.B. If you are unable to do your duty, please arrange a substitute.

The Glasgow Kiltwalk Returns for 2025

At one of Scotland's largest mass sponsored walking events, you have the chance to walk with likeminded supporters, organisers, and church representatives from across the country.

Event details

Date:

Saturday, 26 April 2025 - 10:00 BST — Sunday, 14 September 2025 - 13:00 BST

Join the journey

Churches and communities around the world have walked side-by-side to heal injustices and care for creation for 80 years. The Kiltwalk is a wonderful way to join the journey.

At one of Scotland's largest mass sponsored walking events, you have the chance to walk with likeminded supporters, organisers, and church representatives from across the country.

You can choose to walk in **Glasgow, Aberdeen, Dundee, and Edinburgh**; with each date having a range of distances available, from the 3-mile 'Wee Wander', up to the 22-mile 'Mighty Stride'.

First up we have the walk taking place in Glasgow, where you have the chance to do the 14-mile 'Big Stroll' on Saturday 26 April 2025.

That brings the full array of options to:

- [Glasgow, Saturday 26 April 2025](#)
- [Aberdeen, Sunday 1 June 2025](#)
- [Dundee, Sunday 17 August 2025](#)
- [Edinburgh, Sunday 14 September 2025](#)



Why do the Kiltwalk?

Over the last few years, we've had walkers in all four cities complete various distances. In 2024, walkers from each part of the country successfully raised between raised more than £12.5k for Christian Aid.

Why not join us at a Kiltwalk near you in 2025?

Please [click here to sign up](#) or go to [**www.thekiltwalk.co.uk**](http://www.thekiltwalk.co.uk) and be sure to select 'Christian Aid' as your chosen charity.

As we move towards our 80-year anniversary, this is a wonderful way to continue the journey, step-by-step.



March Highlights

Just a little update on a few March highlights, not least since unfortunately Jacob wasn't able to present much in person this last month within a Sunday morning:

- School work has taken off majorly. There are two Scripture Union groups running all the time, and Jacob also did a brand new trial SU group in another primary school and will similarly lead a trial shortly we hope in yet another. A resource called "Explore Easter" has been used to teach older children in classes in two primary schools, which is again very valuable face to face time for Jacob with the children. He is also giving time every week in an intentional way in another primary school, working both with small groups of children and also with their families, i.e. in school time and in after-school time.
- With our Boys' Brigade, Jacob has worked with the most senior members of the Company on spiritual development over a number of weeks. They went with him, as did others from CYC, to the monthly "Equip" meeting in Glasgow, which draws secondary-age young people from a wide area in large numbers.
- Alongside a youth worker in Coatbridge, Jacob is now fronting a monthly "Connect" group – another means to link up young people from different churches to be alongside one another in growing faith. This is physically happening in Cairnlea.
- As noted elsewhere plans are being made for an after-school drop-in on a Friday at Cairnlea, and he has fronted the organisation of volunteers and funding (for equipment).
- Jacob has completed training for doing "Bible Alive" which is another avenue for curriculum input into primary schools; and there is other training on track for what he might offer in the secondary sector
- Scripture Union Camp season is concentrated in the school holidays, and Jacob will be away both during the Easter and Summer breaks, helping with camps; and his help with weekend residential camps, the last one in February, will continue.

Please continue to support him in prayer! We shall certainly see him on occasion around Sunday morning church in these coming weeks.

Peter

From our Session Clerk

Greetings: Differing from 2024, Easter Sunday is 20th April which is about as late as it can fall. Even now, daffodils are in full bloom due to a mild March and we can look forward to longer, sunnier(?) days ahead. Easter and our Lord's resurrection remains central to our Faith. May you all enjoy a blessed and happy Easter.

David Kendall, chief officer of the Church of Scotland has written an interesting article in the April edition of Life and Work, parts of which I have replicated here:

For many years, sometimes even decades, the Church of Scotland has been warned at the annual General Assembly about the consequences of declining membership, difficulties in filling vacant ministry posts, and, more recently, decreasing income that has forced us to dip into shrinking reserves.

As a Church, we have procrastinated over addressing these and other serious challenges, but we can no longer afford to do so. Since their formation in 2019, the Assembly Trustees have consistently conveyed that, despite numerous actions already taken to address the risks threatening our Church's future sustainability, significant challenges remain.

The General Assembly committed to reaching a balanced budget by 2027. The financial viability of the Church of Scotland remains a significant risk despite all the measures adopted and savings made since the 2019 Special Commission. The Church finances still present an extremely challenging picture and it is evident that the continuing deficit cannot be tackled by looking at national expenditure alone.

It is unlikely to be a surprise that having insufficient numbers of ministers to support the Presbytery Mission Plans poses one of the highest risks. For many years we have lived with high numbers of vacancies. The forward mission plans are based on 600 ministers in post with 60 vacancies which is judged achievable if we adopt the new approaches that are being implemented.

The early church in the book of Acts did not have grand budgets or large resources, but they had a strong community, faith in God's provision and a heart to serve. In the same way, as we cut costs or make difficult financial decisions, we must remember that the heart of the ministry – spreading the gospel, caring for one another, serving our nation and communities – continues.

May we all at Cairnlea live by that last sentence.

Our Services:

During March we again welcomed our friends from Clarkston Parish Church to a joint service celebrating the work of our Girls' Brigade, another joyous occasion in our journey together. We also enjoyed services led by our friends Rev Rob Jones and Lis Johnstone. Our Minister preached services on Leviticus, a difficult book of the Old Testament.

Live streaming of services on 'YouTube' at 11:00am each Sunday morning continues, and previous services can be accessed at any time. For those who cannot attend, we hope you continue to enjoy our services. Thanks are due to the audio/ visual team, especially Robert and Mary Cunningham who serve us so well.

Kirk Session and Business Committee meetings

The latest meeting of the Business Committee was held on 19th March and of the Kirk Session on 25th January. A brief summary from these meetings is given below:

4C Cluster and Worship Proposal: A paper proposing the format of worship is being considered by each of the four Kirk Sessions in our Cluster.

General Assembly: Cairnlea has been offered a place for an Elder Commissioner at the 2025 General Assembly. Workings of the General Assembly will be reported in a following edition of the magazine.

Community: The recent congregational lunch was a great success; thanks are due to the Community team for organising this.

Easter services are being arranged.

Celebration of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be held on Sunday 27th April at 11am and again at 3pm (with catering)

Summer Fayre Saturday 7th June.

A special service will be held on 29th June to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of our church building.

Property: A claim has been submitted to North Lanarkshire Council to repair the Graham Street wall as a result of the bus shelter damaging it. Manse Trees which posed a danger to the wall have been removed.

Finance: See separate report. The first draft of the 2024 Annual Report has been received and is under review.

Congratulations are due to Rev. David McKee, our former student, who has been ordained and is now Minister at Castlemilk Church linked with Carmunnock.

Poets' Corner:

Charles Reznikoff (1894-1976)

As the child of Russian Jews who emigrated to the United States, Reznikoff wrote about Jewish themes, as well as themes of exile, of being cut off from the ethnic background of his parents while, at the same time, never quite fitting into American life.

Notes on the Spring Holidays ["Hanukkah"]

By Charles Reznikoff

In a world where each man must be of use
and each thing useful, the rebellious Jews
light not one light but eight—
not to see by but to look at.

Meditations on the Fall and Winter Holidays ["Feast of Booths"]

By Charles Reznikoff

This was a season of our fathers' joy:
not only when they gathered grapes and the fruit of trees
in Israel, but when, locked in the dark and stony streets,
they held—symbols of a life from which they were banished
but to which they would surely return—
the branches of palm trees and of willows, the twigs of the myrtle,
and the bright odorous citrons.

This was the grove of palms with its deep well
in the stony ghetto in the blaze of noon;
this the living stream lined with willows;
and this the thick-leaved myrtles and trees heavy with fruit
in the barren ghetto—a garden
where the unjustly hated were justly safe at last.

In booths this week of holiday
as those who gathered grapes in Israel lived
and also to remember we were cared for
in the wilderness—

I remember how frail my present dwelling is
even if of stones and steel.

I know this is the season of our joy:
we have completed the readings of the Law
and we begin again;
but I remember how slowly I have learnt, how little,
how fast the year went by, the years—how few.

Caring for us:

Our prayers are as always for those who are ill or alone, those who still provide emergency services, those in schools and care homes. Please also remember those who feel threatened by several concerns of health, family, loss of income and other matters, and the most vulnerable in our society who may be suffering from a variety of ailments. Please also remember those in our world who are subjected to wars, famine, persecution. Please keep in touch with family and friends, especially those who are alone or vulnerable, and remember them in your prayers. Should you know of any members who are in hospital or ill at home, please speak with the Minister or myself.

David

Good Friday

I was standing in line at the bank when there was a commotion at the counter. A woman was very distressed, exclaiming, "Where will I put my money?! I have all my money and my mortgage here!! What will happen to my mortgage?! You can't do this to us!"

It turned out that she had misunderstood a small sign on the counter. The sign read: WE WILL BE CLOSED FOR GOOD FRIDAY.

Easter chocolate dilemma

364 days of the year we tell our kids: "Do NOT eat anything you find on the ground, or anything from strangers!"

On Easter morning we tell them: "Why don't you go outside and search in the dirt for chocolates that a strange giant bunny has left for you?"

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Minister	Rev. Dr Peter Donald	01236 753159 07453 359531
Session Clerk	David Calvert	01236 752692
Roll Keeper	Margaret Cupples	01236 767552
Presbytery Elder	Aileen Barrie	01236 760655
Church Treasurer	Gordon Calvert	07970 100174
Finance Convener	George Martin	01236 767206
Freewill Offering	Lynn Turnbull	07960 344375
Gift Aid	Margaret McCombe	01236 763977
Property Convener	Angela Wagstaff	07718 432581
Community Convener	Esther Watson	01236 755960
Pastoral Care Convener	-	-
Communications Convener	Les Turnbull	07854 164380
Cairnlea 2020 Convener	Malcolm Ross	07734 684667
Spiritual Growth	Rev. Dr Peter Donald	01236 753159
Church Cleaner	Rachel Black	01236 609919
Church Flowers	Elizabeth Reekie	01236 762948
Music Director	Marjory MacDonald	01236 762669
The Guild	Anne Gray	01236 765047
Funday Club	Pamela Spence	01236 769146
Girls' Brigade Captain	Lesley Curran	01236 628625
Boys' Brigade Captain	Andrew Cupples	01236 600129
Life & Work Magazine	Alex Clark	01236 768760
Saturday Tea & Coffee Morning	Shanly Watson	01236 755960
Toy Library	Margaret McCombe	01236 763977
Parents & Toddlers	Katey Brolly	07747 122527
Senior Citizen's Club	Morag Stewart	01236 766439
Probus Club	Bill White	01236 769044
Safeguarding	Irvine Wright	01236 595351
DVD Recording of Services	Robert Cunningham	01236 761337
Health & Safety Co-ordinator	-	-
Cairnlea 2020 Treasurer	Gordon Barrie Calum MacInnes	01236 760655 01698 860588
Sunday Car Rota	Shanly Watson	01236 755960

Contributions for the May magazine to be in the hands of the editor by Monday 21 April, 2025.

MINISTER

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